## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

## DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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\*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

\* Case No.

VS.

\* 06-CV-00354-PB

\*

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

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## DEPOSITION OF RICHARD A. WHITNEY

Deposition taken at the Office of the United States Attorney, James C. Cleveland Federal Building, 53 Pleasant Street, Concord, New Hampshire, on Friday, April 20, 2007, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

Court Reporter: Brenda K. Hancock, RMR, CRR

CCR No. 55 (NH RSA 331-B)

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1	APPEARANCES:	1		
2	For the Government: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	_	INDEX	
	ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION	2		
	ONE GATEWAY CENTER, SUITE 616	3		
4	NEWTON CENTER, MA 02458		WITNESS:	
5	By: Catherine Adams Fiske, Esq.	4		
	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		RICHARD A. WHITNEY	
6	ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION	5		
7	P.O. Box 7611	6	EXAMINATION: Pag	e
	601 D Street, NW, Room 2121	7	By Ms. Rowley 5	
8	Washington DC 20004 By: Laura J. Rowley, Esq.	8	By Mr. Cowan 29	
9	•	9	By Ms. Rowley 51	
10	U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	10 11	By Mr. Cowan 63 By Ms. Rowley 67	
11	Office of Site Remediation &	12	by Ms. Rowley 67	
12	Restoration One Congress Street	12	EXHIBITS FOR IDENTIFICATION:	
12	Suite 1100 (HBS)	13		
13	Boston, MA 02114-2023	_	Number Page	
14	By James E. Israel, Investigator	14		
15	For the Defendant: MINTZ LEVIN COHN FERRIS GLOVSKY		1 Declaration of Richard A.	
16	AND POPEO PC One Financial Center	15	Whitney 22	
	Boston, MA 02111	16		
	By: William 'Mo' Cowan, Esq. -and-	17	(T) 1 11 to 10 1 1 to 10 1 1 1	
18	Kathryn Bagley Schadinger, Esq.	18	(Exhibit attached to transcript)	
19		19 20		
20		21		
	Also present: Madeline Fleischer	22		
22 23		23		
	Page 3	***************************************		Page 5
1	STIPULATIONS	1	RICHARD A. WHITNEY,	-
2	It is agreed that the deposition shall be taken	2	having been duly sworn by the cou	rt
	•		•	
3	in the first instance in stenotype and when	3	reporter, was deposed and testified	as
4	transcribed may be used for all purposes for which	4	follows:	
5	depositions are competent under the Federal Rules of	5	EXAMINATION	
6	Civil Procedure.	6	BY MS. ROWLEY:	
7	Notice, filing, caption and all other formalities	7	Q. Good morning, Mr. Whitney.	My name is
8	are waived. All objections except as to form are	8	Laura Rowley, and I'm an attorney for t	he United
9	reserved and may be taken in court at time of trial.	9	States in this matter.	
10	It is further agreed that if the deposition is	10	A. Mm-hmm.	
11	not signed within thirty (30) days after submission	11		ame
1	- · · · · ·			ame.
12	to counsel, the signature of the deponent is waived.	12	A. Richard A. Whitney.	
13		13	Q. And your address.	
14		14	A. 72 Ring Road in Wilton.	
15		15	Q. Mr. Whitney, I know you've b	peen deposed
16		16	before, but I'll just remind you that in the	is -
17		17	deposition, please listen to the question	
18		18	you before giving your answer, and just	i i
1		•		-
19		19	answer for the sake of the court reporter	·
20		20	she can write it down. If you don't under	
21		21	question I ask, just ask me to rephrase i	t or repeat
22		22	it until you do understand.	
23		23	A. Okay, because sometimes I de	on't hear.

2 (Pages 2 to 5)

	¥		
	Page 6	***************************************	Page 8
1	Q. Okay. Is there any reason that you	1	plant.
2	can't testify truthfully and fully today?	2	Q. Are you familiar with the term pyranol?
3	A. Pardon?	3	A. Yeah.
4	Q. Is there any reason that you can't	4	Q. And is pyranol the same thing as
5	testify truthfully and fully today?	5	chlorinated biphenyls?
6	A. No.	6	A. I believe so, yeah.
7	Q. Okay.	7	Q. So, one of your jobs was unloading
8	MR. COWAN: Laura, before you get	8	pyranol or scrap pyranol off the trucks?
9	going, I'm sorry to interject, but are we going to do	9	A. Yes.
10	any stipulations? It's up to you; I'm just curious.	10	Q. Where did this pyranol come from?
11	MS. ROWLEY: We could. Do you have	11	A. GE, and I think it was I can't think
12	any?	12	of the other one's name now, but there was another
13	MR. COWAN: Well, the usual. All	13	company, too, that was mixed in there.
14	objections except as to form waived till time of	14	Q. Where did you typically unload a truck
15	trial and waive the reading and signing, but it's up	15	of pyranol when it came in?
16	to you. I don't know what your preferences are.	16	A. To begin with, it was at the plant, and
17	MS. ROWLEY: I'm fine with waiving the	17	then after we got more over there than we could
18	reading and signing. That seems to make sense.	18	handle in that one spot, they put them over on
19	MR. COWAN: And as to objections?	19	Cottage Street.
20	MS. ROWLEY: Except as to form.	20	Q. When Mr. Fletcher first started to
21	MR. COWAN: All right.	21	receive the pyranol from GE, what were his plans?
22	MS. ROWLEY: Is that fine?	22	What was he planning to do with it?
23	MR. COWAN: Sure, sure.	23	A. I don't know. He never let me in on
	Page 7		Page 9
1	MS. ROWLEY: Okay.	1	it. They said that they'd try to find a buyer for
2	CONTINUING EXAMINATION BY MS. ROWLEY:	2	it, and I guess they did.
3	Q. Mr. Whitney, did you used to work at	3	Q. Do you know how he found a buyer?
4	Fletcher's Paint Works in Milford, New Hampshire?	4	A. No. All I know is that all of a sudden
5	A. Yes.	5	we were getting some ready to go.
6	Q. When was that?	6	Q. Do you know whether Mr. Fletcher ever
7	A. Pardon?	7	advertised the pyranol in any chemical journals?
8	Q. When was that?	8	A. I don't know.
9	A. I don't remember the exact years, but I	9	Q. Do you know whether he ever advertised
10	know I was there when President Kennedy was shot,	10	it anywhere?
11	which was '63, I believe.	11	A. Well, he just advertised his paint and,
12	Q. And about how long did you work there?	12	apparently, some of that was in some of the paint.
13	A. Seven years, I think.	13	Q. But you don't know whether he
14	Q. What specific jobs did you do at	14	specifically placed an ad just for pyranol?
15	Fletcher's?	15	A. No, I don't. No.
16	A. Run the forklift, I supplied all the	16	Q. When drums of this pyranol would arrive
17	materials that came in, unloaded all the trucks and	17	from GE and you unloaded drums of it from the truck,
18	that, made paint.	18	how would you describe the condition of those drums?
19	Q. What kind of materials did you unload	19	A. Most of them were pretty good, because
20	from trucks?	20	they
21	A. Chlorinated biphenyls, Whiting, Georgia	21	Q. Were there some that were not?
22	Clay, and then I used to drum up resins and that into	22	A. Pardon?
	drums and waste, whatever, whatever came into the	23	Q. Were there some that were not in good

	<b>\</b>		
	Page 10		Page 12
1	shape?	1	Q. Were there other people helping you
2	A. Once in a while, you'd find one that	2	unload the trucks?
3	was leaking or something but not very often.	3	A. Sometimes. Sometimes I'd unload it by
4	Q. What would happen if a drum came in and	4	myself.
5	it was in bad shape?	5	Q. And would they also spill the pyranol
6	A. We'd put it in a good drum.	6	on themselves?
7	Q. And what would happen with that old	7	A. Pardon?
8	drum?	8	Q. Would they also spill pyranol on
9	A. I don't know, but there used to be a	9	themselves?
10	guy that would come around and picked up all the	10	A. Yeah.
11	drums, the drums that we couldn't use.	11	Q. When you unloaded the drums from the
12	Q. When you were putting the pyranol from	12	truck, where did you put them, or where did you store
13	the bad drum into a clean one or a good one, do you	13	them?
14	know whether there were any spills that occurred when	14	A. Well, to begin with, we'd just stand
15	that happened?	15	them up and check them out, and whoever bought it,
16	MR. COWAN: Objection. I'm going to	16	we'd load it back on trucks for them.
17	object to the reference of "bad drum." I'm not	17	Q. In between the time when you unloaded
18	really sure that's there's been any foundation for a	18	the truck and checked them out and the time when
19	"bad drum."	19	someone came to pick them up after they bought them,
20	MS. ROWLEY: I think he said "leaking,"	20	how were they stored?
21	so I'll use that term.	21	A. How were they what?
22	THE WITNESS: Well, we'd usually put it	22	Q. How were the drums stored during that
23	in another drum, that's all.	23	intermediate time period?
	Page 11		Page 13
1	CONTINUING EXAMINATION BY MS. ROWLEY:	1	A. Usually standing right up.
2	Q. And did any of the pyranol spill while	2	Q. Did you ever store the drums laying on
3	you were transferring it from the leaking drum to the	3	their side?
4	new drum?	4	A. Not until we went over to Cottage
5	A. Not as a rule. Once in a while, you	5	Street.
6	might have an accident.	6	Q. When was that?
7	Q. When you were unloading the drums of	7	A. I don't know what the dates are on
8	pyranol from a truck, did you come across any drums	8	that. That's 40, 50 years ago.
9	that had loose or missing bungs?	9	Q. Right. But at some point you would
10	A. Loose ones but not missing.	10	take drums over to another location, Cottage Street?
11	Q. Were there ever any gaskets that were	11	A. Yeah, yeah, when we got more than we
12	loose or missing?	12	could handle at the main plant.
13	A. Sometimes, yeah.	13	Q. And there you might store them stacked
14	Q. Did this result in leaks or spills?	14	on their side?
15	Did that result in leaks or spills?	15	A. Yeah, they were stacked on their side.
16	A. Yeah. Usually, what we did is put new	16	Q. Okay. Did drums ever leak while they
17	gaskets on them and tighten them up.	17	were stored
18	Q. Did you ever spill pyranol on	18	A. Occasionally. Occasionally, yeah.
19	yourself	19	Q. Okay. Did you or other employees at
20	A. Yes.	20	Fletcher's ever test the contents of drums to measure
21	Q when you were unloading the trucks?	21	the specific gravity of the pyranol?
22	How often did that happen?	22	A. Yeah. We used to check it every load
22	A Event time we wented on it	, 77	that same in

A. 23 that came in.

Every time we worked on it.

23

4 (Pages 10 to 13)

	>	Case 1.50 of Coco 1 B Bookinen		
		Page 14		Page 16
1	Q.	Every drum?	1	process, did spills of pyranol ever happen?
2	Α.	Yeah.	2	A. Did we spill it?
3	Q.	Why did you do this?	3	Q. Yeah.
4	A.	Pardon?	4	A. Not as a rule. Once in a while you
5	Q.	Why did you do this?	5	might get a little bit of a spill but nothing no
6	A.	We did it in the yard, and it had to be	6	large amounts.
7	a specific	gravity in order for the customer to take	7	Q. Okay. Did you ever have to treat the
8	it.		8	pyranol in any other way, not just blending it, but
9	Q.	The customer requested a specific	9	were there other things you had to do?
10	number?	This was at the request of the customer?	10	A. Yeah. We had to run it through
11	A.	Yeah, yeah.	11	filters. We started getting black specks in it, so
12	Q.	So, who performed this testing?	12	we would run it through I believe it was the Cuno
13	A.	Usually Clyde Bishop.	13	filter.
14	Q.	Anyone else?	14	Q. And other than black specks, were there
15	A.	I did a few of them, but usually I was	15	any other things that you had to filter out of the
16	too busy	doing other stuff to be checking that.	16	pyranol?
17	Q.	If Clyde Bishop tested a drum, would	17	A. No. Not as a rule, no.
18	•	had any reason to see the contents of that	18	Q. How long did you have to filter the
19	drum?		19	pyranol before the black specks were removed?
20	A.	To what?	20	A. How long?
21	Q.	To see the contents of that drum.	21	Q. Yes. You mentioned three or four days
22	A.	No. When you took the sample out, that	}	for blending. Was it about the same for filtering?
23	was it.		23	A. After it was all blended, and usually
		Page 15		Page 17
1	Q.	But if the sample met the correct	1	they would run the filter was before it was
2	specificat	ions, what would happen to the drum after	2	blended, usually.
3	that?		3	Q. When you finished filtering and
4	A.	Well, if it meets specifications, it	4	blending the pyranol, did you put it back into the
5	went to or	ne section. If it didn't meet, we'd move it	5	same drums that it came out of?
6	over to an	other and usually blend them together.	6	A. No.
7	Q.	So, if a drum was tested by Clyde	7	Q. What did you do with the old drums that
8	Bishop an	d it met the specifications, would you have	8	it came out of?
9	-	eason along the way to see the contents of	9	A. They used to stack them up, and there
10	that drum		10	was a guy that used to come up and get them, get all
11		No.	11	the dirty drums and clean them, and then he'd sell
12	-	So, what did you do with the pyranol	12	them back to us.
13		oo heavy or too light?	13	Q. Did you rinse the old drums out before
14		After we got enough of them, we blended	14	you gave them to this company?
15	them toge		15	MR. COWAN: Laura, I'm going to object.
16	-	How did you do that?	16	The questions are leading, including that one, so I'm
17		By dumping it into a tank and then	17	going to object to the form of the question.
18		it up into a bigger tank and recirculating	18	THE WITNESS: I didn't hear all of
19	it.		19	that.
20		How long did you have to recirculate	20	CONTINUING EXAMINATION BY MS. ROWLEY:
21	it?		21	Q. Did you rinse the drum out before
22	A.	Three or four days usually.	22	giving it to this company?
23	Q.	While you were doing this blending	23	MR. COWAN: Again, I'm going to object.

5 (Pages 14 to 17)

	Page 18		Page 20
1	Leading question.	1	the drums that related to pyranol?
2	THE WITNESS: Not that I know of.	2	A. No. Usually, there was just the name
3	CONTINUING EXAMINATION BY MS. ROWLEYS	3	of the plant.
4	Q. After you were finished filtering a	4	MR. COWAN: I'm going to object. I
5	batch of scrap pyranol, what did you do with the	5	understand this is a deposition, but I also
6	material that was filtered out, the black specks?	6	understand that the posture of this case at this time
7	A. It was put in a barrel.	7	is limited for purposes of the useful product
8	Q. Do you know what became of it after	8	defense. I'm not really sure if this line of
9	that?	9	questioning about the health hazards, if you will, of
10	A. No. Two or three barrels that had that	10	PCB's in pyranol have anything to do with the posture
11	in it was sitting there when I left.	11	of the case at this point, and I'm going to object to
12	Q. Where was it sitting?	12	that line of questioning.
13	A. Right in the yard.	13	MS. FISKE: Are you instructing him not
14	Q. At which location?	14	to answer?
15	A. Down by where we had the pump at the	15	MR. COWAN: Oh, no, I can't instruct
16	time.	16	him not to answer. I'm objecting to the line of
17	Q. Did you ever receive any special	17	questioning.
18	instructions from General Electric concerning	18	MS. FISKE: Okay.
19	handling the pyranol?	19	MS. ROWLEY: Okay, sure.
20	A. No.	20	CONTINUING EXAMINATION BY MS. ROWLEY:
21	Q. Did a driver for Fletcher's ever come	21	Q. When you were working with the pyranol,
22	back from General Electric with any paperwork	22	you mentioned earlier that you might spill some on
23	regarding safety guidelines for handling pyranol?	23	yourself while you were unloading the trucks. Were
		i	
	Page 19		Page 21
1	A. Not that I see.	1	Page 21 there other occasions when you would spill the
1 2	<ul><li>A. Not that I see.</li><li>Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's</li></ul>	1 2	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?
	A. Not that I see.	1 2 3	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?  A. Well, when you're filtering it, you
	A. Not that I see. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling pyranol?	2 3 4	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?  A. Well, when you're filtering it, you might get a little on you.
2	A. Not that I see. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling pyranol? A. I didn't hear that.	2 3	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?  A. Well, when you're filtering it, you
2 3 . 4	<ul> <li>A. Not that I see.</li> <li>Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's</li> <li>ever give you any special instructions about handling pyranol?</li> <li>A. I didn't hear that.</li> <li>Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's</li> </ul>	2 3 4	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?  A. Well, when you're filtering it, you might get a little on you.  Q. How often would that happen?  A. Almost every load.
2 3 4 5	A. Not that I see. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling pyranol? A. I didn't hear that. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling	2 3 4 5	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?  A. Well, when you're filtering it, you might get a little on you.  Q. How often would that happen?  A. Almost every load.  Q. What would happen when you spilled
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. Not that I see. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling pyranol? A. I didn't hear that. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling the pyranol?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?  A. Well, when you're filtering it, you might get a little on you.  Q. How often would that happen?  A. Almost every load.  Q. What would happen when you spilled pyranol on yourself?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. Not that I see. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling pyranol? A. I didn't hear that. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling the pyranol? A. No. They told us it wouldn't hurt us.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?  A. Well, when you're filtering it, you might get a little on you.  Q. How often would that happen?  A. Almost every load.  Q. What would happen when you spilled pyranol on yourself?  A. You'd probably keep right on working,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Not that I see. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling pyranol? A. I didn't hear that. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling the pyranol? A. No. They told us it wouldn't hurt us. Q. Who told you that?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?  A. Well, when you're filtering it, you might get a little on you.  Q. How often would that happen?  A. Almost every load.  Q. What would happen when you spilled pyranol on yourself?  A. You'd probably keep right on working, you know.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	A. Not that I see. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling pyranol? A. I didn't hear that. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling the pyranol? A. No. They told us it wouldn't hurt us. Q. Who told you that? A. It would have been the boss at the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?  A. Well, when you're filtering it, you might get a little on you.  Q. How often would that happen?  A. Almost every load.  Q. What would happen when you spilled pyranol on yourself?  A. You'd probably keep right on working, you know.  Q. Did you work with other chemicals at
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	A. Not that I see. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling pyranol?  A. I didn't hear that. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling the pyranol?  A. No. They told us it wouldn't hurt us. Q. Who told you that? A. It would have been the boss at the time, which was Earl Wesson.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?  A. Well, when you're filtering it, you might get a little on you.  Q. How often would that happen?  A. Almost every load.  Q. What would happen when you spilled pyranol on yourself?  A. You'd probably keep right on working, you know.  Q. Did you work with other chemicals at Fletcher's?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Not that I see. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling pyranol? A. I didn't hear that. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling the pyranol? A. No. They told us it wouldn't hurt us. Q. Who told you that? A. It would have been the boss at the time, which was Earl Wesson. Q. So, did anyone from either General	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?  A. Well, when you're filtering it, you might get a little on you.  Q. How often would that happen?  A. Almost every load.  Q. What would happen when you spilled pyranol on yourself?  A. You'd probably keep right on working, you know.  Q. Did you work with other chemicals at Fletcher's?  A. Yeah.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Not that I see. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling pyranol? A. I didn't hear that. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling the pyranol? A. No. They told us it wouldn't hurt us. Q. Who told you that? A. It would have been the boss at the time, which was Earl Wesson. Q. So, did anyone from either General Electric or Fletcher's tell you to wear protective	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?  A. Well, when you're filtering it, you might get a little on you.  Q. How often would that happen?  A. Almost every load.  Q. What would happen when you spilled pyranol on yourself?  A. You'd probably keep right on working, you know.  Q. Did you work with other chemicals at Fletcher's?  A. Yeah.  Q. Were any of those chemicals considered
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	A. Not that I see. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling pyranol? A. I didn't hear that. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling the pyranol? A. No. They told us it wouldn't hurt us. Q. Who told you that? A. It would have been the boss at the time, which was Earl Wesson. Q. So, did anyone from either General Electric or Fletcher's tell you to wear protective gear, such as gloves or a mask while you were working	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?  A. Well, when you're filtering it, you might get a little on you.  Q. How often would that happen?  A. Almost every load.  Q. What would happen when you spilled pyranol on yourself?  A. You'd probably keep right on working, you know.  Q. Did you work with other chemicals at Fletcher's?  A. Yeah.  Q. Were any of those chemicals considered hazardous?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Not that I see. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling pyranol? A. I didn't hear that. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling the pyranol? A. No. They told us it wouldn't hurt us. Q. Who told you that? A. It would have been the boss at the time, which was Earl Wesson. Q. So, did anyone from either General Electric or Fletcher's tell you to wear protective gear, such as gloves or a mask while you were working with it?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?  A. Well, when you're filtering it, you might get a little on you.  Q. How often would that happen?  A. Almost every load.  Q. What would happen when you spilled pyranol on yourself?  A. You'd probably keep right on working, you know.  Q. Did you work with other chemicals at Fletcher's?  A. Yeah.  Q. Were any of those chemicals considered hazardous?  A. Yeah. Some of them were, yeah.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Not that I see. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling pyranol?  A. I didn't hear that. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling the pyranol?  A. No. They told us it wouldn't hurt us. Q. Who told you that? A. It would have been the boss at the time, which was Earl Wesson. Q. So, did anyone from either General Electric or Fletcher's tell you to wear protective gear, such as gloves or a mask while you were working with it?  A. No. Q. Did anyone ever tell you to avoid inhaling the pyranol? A. To what? Q. To avoid inhaling the pyranol.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?  A. Well, when you're filtering it, you might get a little on you.  Q. How often would that happen?  A. Almost every load.  Q. What would happen when you spilled pyranol on yourself?  A. You'd probably keep right on working, you know.  Q. Did you work with other chemicals at Fletcher's?  A. Yeah.  Q. Were any of those chemicals considered hazardous?  A. Yeah. Some of them were, yeah.  Q. Do you remember which ones?  A. The ammonia. That was industrial grade. They used to use that in the wax, floor wax, and there was asbestos. There was quite a bit of asbestos when they made the roof coating.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. Not that I see. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling pyranol? A. I didn't hear that. Q. Did anyone who worked at Fletcher's ever give you any special instructions about handling the pyranol? A. No. They told us it wouldn't hurt us. Q. Who told you that? A. It would have been the boss at the time, which was Earl Wesson. Q. So, did anyone from either General Electric or Fletcher's tell you to wear protective gear, such as gloves or a mask while you were working with it? A. No. Q. Did anyone ever tell you to avoid inhaling the pyranol? A. To what?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	there other occasions when you would spill the pyranol on yourself?  A. Well, when you're filtering it, you might get a little on you.  Q. How often would that happen?  A. Almost every load.  Q. What would happen when you spilled pyranol on yourself?  A. You'd probably keep right on working, you know.  Q. Did you work with other chemicals at Fletcher's?  A. Yeah.  Q. Were any of those chemicals considered hazardous?  A. Yeah. Some of them were, yeah.  Q. Do you remember which ones?  A. The ammonia. That was industrial grade. They used to use that in the wax, floor wax, and there was asbestos. There was quite a bit of

	Page 22		Page 24
1	A. No, they didn't have any.	1	Flax?
2	Q. Did anyone tell you they were unsafe?	2	A. Yeah. I would say that name rings a
3	A. Oh, yeah, finally, after we'd worked on	3	bell, but I can't think of just
4	them for a number of years.	4	Q. Was it Mr. Flax who called you or spoke
5	Q. I'd like to show you a copy of this.	5	with you about making this Declaration?
6	It's a Declaration signed by you in January.	6	A. I don't know. I can't remember all the
7	MS. ROWLEY: I'd like to mark this as	7	different people.
8	Exhibit 1.	8	Q. Did you meet with somebody in person
9	(Whitney Exhibit No. 1	9	about making this Declaration?
10	marked for identification)	10	A. Yeah, a couple of times I have.
11	CONTINUING EXAMINATION BY MS. ROWLEY:	11	Q. Did they come to your house?
12	Q. Have you had a chance to review this?	12	A. No. I met him down at the restaurant,
13	A. Yeah, I think I did once before	13	I think. I met him down at Gary's Harvest. It's a
14	somewhere along the line.	14	little local restaurant about a mile from my house.
15	Q. Okay. This document is entitled	15	Q. And what did you talk about with this
16	"Declaration of Richard A. Whitney."	16	person?
17	A. Yes.	17	A. Just the materials we used.
18	Q. And do you recognize it?	18	Q. Was the meeting at the restaurant
19	A. Yeah.	19	was that the only meeting you had before signing this
20	Q. Is that your signature on the second	20	Declaration?
21	page?	21	A. No. I think we had it seems as
22	A. Yeah.	22	though there was one back several years ago, and that
23	Q. Who contacted you regarding making this	23	was in Boston, I think.
	Page 23		Page 25
1	Declaration?	1	Q. And I'm just concerned with the last
2	A. I can't remember all the names of the	2	few months. This was signed in January, 2007, so
3	people. I'm lucky if I can remember my own some	3	anywhere around that time period. Could you, please,
4	days.	4	look at paragraph 8 of this? Could you look at
5	Q. Do you remember when someone contacted	5	paragraph number 8 of this Declaration?
6	you?	6	A. (Witness reading document). Mm-hmm.
7	A. A couple, three years ago, anyways, at	7	Q. Have you had a chance to read it?
8	least. I can't remember the dates.	8	A. Yeah, I have.
9	Q. Just regarding this specific	9	Q. Were there any drums of pyranol stored
10	Declaration that you made in January, 2007, do you	10	anywhere at Fletcher's when you stopped working for
11	remember when somebody first called you about this	ł	him?
12	A. Do I remember what?	12	A. Was there any what?
13	Q. When somebody first contacted you about	13	Q. Were there any drums of pyranol stored
14	this Declaration that you signed in January.	14	on the property of Mr. Fletcher at the time that you
15	A. I don't remember when it was. I can't	15	stopped working for him?
16	remember back.	16	A. Yeah.
17	Q. Do you recall somebody by the name of	17	Q. After you stopped working for Mr.
18	Joe Nassif?	18	Fletcher's, did you ever drive past his business?
19	A. What was his last name?	19	A. Yeah.
20	Q. Nassif, N-A-S-S-I-F.	20	Q. Did you notice whether there were drums
21	A. No, I don't think so. I might	21	still stored on his property?
22	9	22	A. I think they were over on Cottage
23	Q. Do you recall someone named Patrick	23	Street then, but other than that, I didn't pay too

	•		
	Page 26		Page 28
1	much attention to it.	1	A. Mm-hmm.
2	Q. Do you remember about how many drums	2	Q. And you had mentioned that some might
3	were on the property when you stopped working for Mr.	3	be leaking.
4	Fletcher?	4	A. Yeah. Sometimes, yeah.
5	MR. COWAN: I'm going to object to	5	Q. Do you know why they were leaking?
6	"drums." Drums of anything?	6	A. Gaskets would be gone. Gaskets were
7	MS. ROWLEY: Yes, drums of anything.	7	either missing or leaking.
8	THE WITNESS: I don't have the foggiest	8	Q. Were the drums ever leaking because
9	idea. A lot of them, I know that.	9	they were rusty?
10	CONTINUING EXAMINATION BY MS. ROWLEY:	10	A. No.
11	Q. Okay. You couldn't estimate?	11	Q. How often would a gasket be leaking?
12	A. A couple of thousand, anyways, if not	12	A. Oh, you might get one or two a load, or
13	more.	13	sometimes you might have the whole load leaking, you
14	Q. Were any of those drums drums of	14	know, but other times they'd come in and they'd be
15	pyranol?	15	perfect, there'd be nothing wrong with them. It just
16	A. Pardon?	16	depended.
17	Q. Did any of those drums contain pyranol?	17	Q. And were they ever leaking because a
18	A. Yeah.	18	bung was loose or missing?
19	Q. How many?	19	A. Occasionally, yeah.
20	A. More than half.	20	Q. And would that also vary, depending on
21	Q. Do you remember where on Mr. Fletcher's	21	the load?
22	property those drums were?	22	A. Yeah, pretty much so.
23	A. Yeah, pretty much so.	23	Q. Did you ever get a load where, you
	Page 27		Page 29
1	Q. Where were they?	1	know, the bungs were loose or missing on a lot of the
2	A. The last of it was over on Cottage	2	drums?
3	Street.	3	A. Pardon?
4	Q. Were there any on Mill Street?	4	Q. Did you ever get a load of pyranol from
5	A. Mill Street, Cottage Street. They come	5	GE where the bungs were loose on many of the drums?
6	right together there.	6	A. It wouldn't be all of them. Once in a
7	Q. Oh, okay. That's the same location?	7	while you would get one or two that would be, or even
8	A. Yeah.	8	three that would either be loose or dripping, you
9	Q. Were there any on Elm Street?	9	know, and then we'd do what we could to fix them.
10	A. There was for a while, but I don't know	10	Q. Were you able to fix the bungs or loose
11	when they took them out of there completely.	11	gaskets all the time?
12	Q. Okay. Did you notice whether the	12	A. Yeah. If we didn't, then we dumped it
13	amount of drums on either Mill Street or Elm Street	13	in the tank and blended it, you know.
14	increased after you stopped working for Mr. Fletcher?	14	MS. ROWLEY: Okay. I think that's all
15	A. I don't know. I didn't pay that much	15	I have.
16	attention to it.	16	EXAMINATION
17	MS. ROWLEY: Could we just take a short	17	BY MR. COWAN:
18	break for a moment?	18	Q. Good morning, Mr. Whitney.
19	(Recess taken from 10:11 to 10:12 a.m.)	19	A. Good morning.
20	CONTINUING EXAMINATION BY MS. ROWLEY:		Q. We met earlier. Again, my name is Mo
21	Q. Mr. Whitney, I asked you about the	21	Cowan, and I represent the General Electric Company.
22	condition of the drums that arrived from General	22	A. Yes.
23	Electric.	23	Q. I have a few questions to ask you today

8 (Pages 26 to 29)

Page 32 Page 30 1 following up on Ms. Rowley's questions. I'll offer 1 You mean, are you talking about the you the same instructions she did. Should I ask a pyranol? 2 question that you don't understand or you can't hear 3 Q. Yes. me, please just let me know, and I will do my best to 4 A. Okay. They would bring it in with either repeat it or rephrase it in a manner that their truck, to begin with. At first, it was a small makes sense to you. truck, and then they went and graduated to a larger 6 7 All right. 7 truck, and then they started having someone else come A. in with tractor-trailers with loads of it. 8 Just a couple of preliminary questions. Q. How did you arrive at today's proceedings? 9 And you said "their trucks." Whose 9 10 A. He brought me up (indicating). 10 truck are referring to, Fletcher's? And by "he," you're pointing to Mr. 11 Yeah. 11 O. A. 12 Israel behind me? 12 Q. And what do you understand is pyranol? 13 13 Strike that. You earlier said the chlorinated A. Right. 14 Q. And did you happen to have a 14 biphenyls are the same as pyranol; is that your 15 conversation on the way here? understanding? 15 That's what I understood, yeah. 16 Pardon? 16 A. A. 17 Q. Did you happen to chat on the way here 17 O. And you mentioned that this material in the car? came from General Electric, correct? 18 18 19 Oh, yeah. 19 Yeah, some of it. A. A. 20 Q. Small talk? 20 Q. Did some come from other places? Yeah. 21 21 Yeah. I'm trying to think of the name A. A. 22 Did you talk about today's proceedings of the place now. Q. 22 23 at all? 23 Does the name Sprague Electric ring a Page 31 Page 33 1 A. No, not really. No. 1 bell? 2 Okay. Did you discuss your deposition 2 A. Q. Yeah, that's where they come from. 3 or the testimony you expected to give today? 3 Q. Do you recall a company by the name of 4 A. No. 4 Aerovox? 5 Q. Did you discuss this case at all? And 5 No. Α. by "this case," I mean the United States versus That's A-e-r-o-v-o-x, I believe, if my 6 Q. 7 General Electric. 7 spelling's still up to par. 8 No. 8 No, I don't recall that. A. A. 9 Q. And did you discuss your employment at 9 Okay. And did you unload material that Fletcher's Paint Works or Milford Paint Works? 10 10 was shipped to Fletcher's from Sprague Electric? I think we mentioned it, but I don't 11 11 A. Yeah. think there was any -- you know, just mentioned it, 12 12 Q. And how was that material shipped from 13 that's about it. 13 Sprague Electric? 14 Q. Just mentioned that you worked there? 14 A. I believe they went down with our 15 A. 15 truck, well, with the company truck, and got it, but In response to a question Ms. Rowley 16 I can't remember for sure. 16 Q. asked you earlier in the deposition, you said that 17 17 Was this material also in barrels? Q. you unloaded materials from the trucks brought to 18 Yeah. 18 A. Fletcher's? 19 19 And what was inside the barrels, if you Q. 20 A. 20 know? Yup. And what were in those drums? Excuse 21 Q. 21 Chlorinated biphenyl. A. me, strike that. And what was on the trucks, or how 22 The same sort of material from General Q. did the material arrive at Fletcher's?

23 Electric?

Case 1:06-cv-00354-PB Document 60-1 Filed 08/18/08 Page 10 of 27 Page 36 Page 34 1 A. Yeah. 1 Yeah, they used it in their products. 2 2 What kind of products were made at Q. And where was this material from Q. 3 Sprague Electric stored at Fletcher's? 3 Fletcher's Paint Works? I realize that may be Usually, everything was marked with a something of an obvious question. 4 4 number on the barrel, and we'd store it with the 5 5 They made traffic paint, roof coatings, stuff from GE. 6 6 house paint, interior paint, varnishes, shellacs. 7 7 Q. It was all stored together? Do you know if any of the material Mr. Yeah. Maybe one row might be Sprague Fletcher purchased from General Electric or Sprague 8 8 A. Electric, and maybe the next row, you know. Electric was ever used in any of the products that 9 9 And you worked at Fletcher's for about 10 10 Mr. Fletcher himself made or his company made? six or seven years, correct? Yeah. 11 11 A. 12 A. Yeah, for about seven years. 12 Q. And what products were those? 13 In your duties and responsibilities at 13 I think it was a roof coating. Q. A. Fletcher's, did you have much daily interaction with Roof coating. Let's talk about the 14 14 Q. Mr. Fletcher, the owner of the company? drums that you recall unloading from Sprague 15 15 Electric. Do you recall the condition of those Yeah. I talked to him a lot, yeah. 16 A. 16 And when you talked with him, did he 17 O. 17 drums? discuss with you his business plans or his business 18 Yeah, they were pretty decent. 18 A. strategies? And when you say "decent," what do you 19 19 Q. 20 A. No, not really. 20 mean? 21 Q. So, when you were first asked to unload 21 Well, they weren't leaking any more A. 22 the chlorinated biphenyls, had you had a conversation 22 than any of the others were, the same. with Mr. Fletcher about what he intended to do with 23 23 Q. Well, how often were the Sprague Page 35 Page 37 1 that material? Electric drums leaking, that you recall? Well, you might get one or two out of a 2 A. No. 2 3 load, or maybe three, but, never -- to begin with, we Q. At any point, did you come to understand how the material was going to be used by didn't get as much from Sprague Electric as we did 4 4 5 Mr. Fletcher? 5 from GE. 6 No. To begin with, he never said 6 But when they came to Fletcher's, they anything about what he was going to do. I knew he 7 were all stored together? 7 was going to try to sell it, but to who or what for, 8 Basically, yeah. 8 A. 9 I don't know. 9 Q. Did you ever travel to any General 10 Q. Did you ever learn whether he sold it, 10 Electric facility to collect the pyranol? and, if so, to whom? Did I? 11 11 A. 12 A. Yeah. I know he sold some to Webtex. 12 Q. Did you? 13 Q. Webtex? 13 A. No. No, I never did. 14 A. Yeah. 14 So, you never saw the drums as they Q. 15 Q. And who was Webtex, if you recall? 15 were stored or maintained at GE before they were It was a company that used to make roof transported to Fletchers? 16 A. 16 17 coatings. 17 No. A. 18 Q. And did you have an understanding of 18 Is that correct? Q.

A.

arrived at Fletcher's?

20

21

22

23

That's right.

how Webtex was going to use the material purchased 19

Yeah. I guess they were going to make

They used it in their products?

from Fletcher, the chlorinated biphenyls?

a -- some of it they made glues out of.

19

20

21

22

23

Q.

10 (Pages 34 to 37)

So, what is your recollection of the

Most of them were in pretty good shape.

condition of General Electric's drums when they

3

11

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- 1 You'd have a few leakers almost -- you're bound to
- get a leaker in a load, you know what I mean?
- Gaskets are loose or something like that.
- Do you know whether those gaskets were 4
- loosened or became loose en route to Fletcher's or 5
- 6 before they left General Electric?
- 7 No, I don't. I would assume that if
- Wally had seen the leak, he probably would have 8
- 9 tightened the bung up or whatever, you know, to stop
- the leak, but as a general rule they weren't too bad. 10
- 11 Q. And by "Wally," you mean who, sir?
- 12 A. Pardon?
- 13 Q. You referred to a "Wally." Who was
- "Wally"? 14
- 15 Wally Hooper. A.
- Was that a co-worker at Fletcher's? 16 Q.
- 17 He was a truck driver and paint. A.
- 18 Q. I'm sorry. And paint?
- 19 He made paint, too, for him. A.
- Did Mr. Hooper drive the trucks to 20 O.
- 21 General Electric --
- 22 A. Yeah.
- 23 Q. -- to transport the material?

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- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 And did I understand your testimony Q.
- just a few seconds ago, you have an understanding
- that had Mr. Hooper seen loose -- or something wrong
- with the drums he would have dealt with it before it
- left General Electric? 6
- 7 Oh, yeah, because if he'd seen
- something coming on the truck that was leaking, he's
- supposed to have them set aside or repair it, if he 9
- could. The heat and the cold has a lot to do with 10
- 11 whether or not a drum leaks.
- 12 Q. The heat and the cold?
- 13 A. Right. When it's cold it contracts,
- and when the sun shines down on it, it will expand. 14
- Would you have any reason to know 15
- whether any leak that you may have observed resulted 16
- 17 from environmental or weather conditions or from some
- other cause? 18
- 19 Well, some of it, I suppose, probably A.
- half was the environment and the other half was 20
- 21 because they were just leakers and had to be fixed,
- 22 you know.
- 23 Q. And you base that separation, the half

Page 40

- 1 and half, you base that on what, your personal
- 2 observation?
  - A. Yeah.
  - 4 Q. But you observed these drums once they
  - were at Fletcher's; is that correct? 5
  - A. Yeah. 6
  - 7 Q. I'm going to ask you to look at Exhibit
    - 1, which is the only exhibit we have thus far, is
  - 9 your Declaration, Mr. Whitney. Now, again, this is
- your signature on page 2; is that correct? 10
  - Yeah. A.
- 12 Q. And you read this before you signed it?
- 13 A. Mm-hmm.
- And you signed it, believing that all 14 O.
- of the statements therein were true? 15
- Yes. 16 A.
- Paragraph 6 of the Declaration states 17 Q.
- 18 that you had no recollection that the drums picked up
- from General Electric were in poor condition. Is 19
- 20 that true?
- 21 A. Yeah. As a general rule, they were
- 22 pretty decent.
- 23 Paragraph 8 of the Declaration reads,

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- "There were not any chlorinated biphenyls at
- 2 Fletcher's Milford Paint Works, including those
- picked up at GE, that Fletcher's Milford Paint Works
- 4 couldn't either sell to Webtex or use." Is that
- 5 true, Mr. Whitney?
- 6 A. Yeah. I would think so, yeah. That's
- 7 what we were told.
  - So, you have an understanding that
- whatever General Electric or whatever Fletcher
- purchased from General Electric, Fletcher either used 10
- 11 it or sold it to someone else for someone else's use?
- 12 A.

8

- 13 Q. In response to some questions from Ms.
- 14 Rowley, you talked about blending --
- 15 A.
- Q. -- of some of the material. 16
  - A. Right.
- 18 Q. Do you recall when the blending
- process, as you recall it, began to occur at 19
- Fletcher's? Do you remember the time period? 20
- 21 No, not really. I would think probably
- 22 six months to a year after we first started getting
- 23 it.

17

(Pages 38 to 41)

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	Page 42		Page 44
1	Q. Was it your testimony earlier that the	1	recall when Mr. Fletcher or Fletcher's Paint Works
2	blending of the material began to happen because it	2	first began to purchase pyranol from General
3	was a request of the customer?	3	Electric?
4	A. That, and it had to be checked out as	4	A. I don't know. I think I had worked
5	far as the specific gravity, too.	5	there for more than a year, but I couldn't say exact
6	Q. Specific gravity?	6	dates. I can't remember things like that.
7	A. Yeah.	7	Q. It was a long time ago.
8	Q. And the process, the blending was	8	A. Yeah, when all my kids were little.
9	designed to	9	Q. They're not so much anymore, I imagine.
10	A. Right, to make it more even for them	10	A. The youngest one's 48.
11	easier for them to use.	11	Q. In response to a question Ms. Rowley
12	Q. And that made it more marketable	12	asked earlier in her questioning, you indicated that
13	A. Right.	13	there were approximately 2,000 drums left at the
14	Q for sale to Webtex and others?	14	Fletcher's Paint Work site after you left.
15	A. Right.	15	A. Yeah. That was everything, though.
16	MS. ROWLEY: Object to the form of that	16	Q. That was everything?
17	question.	17	A. Yeah.
18	CONTINUING EXAMINATION BY MR. COWAN	18	Q. Meaning what, when you say
19	Q. Do you know why the material was	19	"everything"?
20	blended, to make it heavier or to address the	20	A. Well, the resins for paints. There was
21	viscosity? What was the purpose of that?	21	all kinds of resins and kettled oils and then they
22	A. Well, it was easier for them to use.	22	had tanks for there were two tanks inside the shop
23	Q. And by "them," you mean who?	23	that they used to store traffic resin in there.
	Page 43		Page 45
1	A. Webtex.	1	Q. So, these 2,000 barrels contained a
2	Q. And do you know if they could use it	2	variety or any number of materials?
3	without that blending process?	3	A. Mm-hmm.
4	A. Yeah, but it's like the weight per	4	Q. And do you recall when was the last
5	gallon is what they wanted it all the same. They	5	time you saw these approximately 2,000 barrels?
6	didn't want, say, 12 pounds per gallon in this barrel	6	A. It was after I got through.
7	and then dump another barrel in that's only 10	7	Q. How soon after you got through or
8	pounds. So, we suggested blending it, and they said	8	completed your employment with Fletcher's?
9	"Try it and see what happens." So, we tried it and	9	A. Within weeks.
10	it came out real good.	10	Q. Within weeks?
11	Q. So, they had been purchasing it prior	11	A. Yeah.
12	to the blending process, and then, through	12	Q. And you said that some of the barrels
13	discussions with Mr. Fletcher or his employees and	13	contained resins and other materials used in
14	Webtex, a decision was made to blend it?	14	Fletcher's's manufacturing process.
15	A. Right.	15	A. Right.
16	Q. To make it consistent for Webtex's	16	Q. And do you know if some of the barrels
17	A. Yeah.	17	contained pyranol or chlorinated biphenyls?
18	Q business?	18	A. Yeah.
19	A. Yeah.	19	Q. And how do you know that, sir?
20	Q. But Webtex had been buying it	20	A. How do I know that?
	beforehand; is that correct?	21	Q. Yes.
<b>Z</b> L		1	<b>~.</b>
21 22	A. Yes.	22	A. Because I know nyranol when I see it
22 23	<ul><li>A. Yes.</li><li>Q. Mr. Whitney, do you know or do you</li></ul>	22 23	<ul><li>A. Because I know pyranol when I see it.</li><li>Q. I'm sure you do, but this material was</li></ul>

- 1 drummed up, is that correct, meaning it was in drums?
- 2 A. Yeah. Well, they continued on the
- 3 piles that we had started, because we started putting
- 4 them over on Cottage Street.
  - Q. You said "they" continued?
- 6 A. Yeah. After I got through, somebody
- 7 had to do it.

5

- 8 Q. Meaning, someone who was working for
- 9 Fletcher's?
- 10 A. Yeah.
- Q. You weren't working there at the time?
- 12 A. No.
- Q. So, am I correct that your estimate of
- 14 how many barrels of chlorinated biphenyls were in
- 15 that 2,000 is based on the fact that you saw drums
- 16 being stored in a particular area?
- 17 A. Yeah, when I was there, a lot of it,
- 18 because they used to bring them in on
- 19 tractor-trailers. Sometimes they would be too high
- 20 on the trailer, and you'd have to take them off with
- 21 a forklift.
- Q. But is it fair to say that you don't
- 23 know whether, after the time you left the company,

- 1 on the load on the truck.
  - Q. So, the 1,000 barrels is just your best

Page 48

Page 49

3 guess?

2

6

- 4 A. I would think, between the two places,
- 5 I would think there was close to 2,000.
  - O. Closer to 1,000?
- 7 A. Close to 2,000, yeah.
- 8 O. Barrels total?
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. Full of various things?
- 11 A. Yeah.
- Q. But you're not sure among those 2,000
- 13 how many actually contained chlorinated biphenyls of
- 14 pyranol?

15

- A. Well, no, not exactly.
- Q. We talked about Webtex a little bit,
- 17 and Webtex purchased pyranol and chlorinated
- 18 biphenyls from Mr. Fletcher, correct?
- 19 A. Mm-hmm.
- Q. Do you know of any other companies who
- 21 purchased that material from Mr. Fletcher?
- 22 A. No.
- Q. Did you ever talk to anyone at Webtex

Page 47

- whether more barrels of chlorinated biphenyls from
- 2 General Electric, Sprague Electric or anyone else
- 3 were being received at Fletcher's and stored at
- 4 Fletcher's? Do you know that?
- 5 A. Yeah.
- 6 Q. I'm talking about the time after you
- 7 left.

8

- A. Oh, at least within a few weeks it was
- 9 still coming in. Of course, I went to work for
- 10 another company.
- 11 Q. How many barrels do you recall or do
- 12 you know, actually do you know contained chlorinated
- 13 biphenyls among those barrels you saw after the time
- 14 you left?
- 15 A. I would say about half of them were,
- 16 because there was still a lot of barrels of paint and
- 17 resin for making paint, kettled oils, boiled linseed
- 18 oil, all that sort of stuff there.
- Q. Could there have been as few as 200
- 20 barrels that contained chlorinated biphenyls?
- A. I think there was more than that.
- Q. Could there have been 500?
- A. Well, I can't remember now how many was

- 1 about how they were using the pyranol they were
- 2 purchasing from Fletcher's?
- 3 A. The only time anyone said anything to
- 4 me about the pyranol was when they were having black
- 5 specks, and, so, we figured if we filtered it that
- 6 would get rid of the black specks, and we did. So,
- 7 we filtered it and blended it all in one operation.
  - Q. And that was at the request of Webtex?
- 9 A. Yeah.

8

- 10 Q. Did you ever talk to anyone at General
- 11 Electric about the pyranol?
- 12 A. Pardon?
- Q. I'm sorry. Did you ever talk to anyone
- 14 at General Electric about the pyranol?
- 15 A. No.
- Q. Just a couple of more questions, Mr.
- 17 Whitney. I believe you may have testified that you
- 18 have an understanding -- well, strike that. Do you
- - have an anaerstanding went, strike that. Bo
- 19 know whether or not after the time you left
- 20 Fletcher's whether Fletcher's Milford Paint Works
- 21 continued to receive chlorinated biphenyls from
- 22 anyone or from any company?
- A. I don't know how much they -- I would

·13 (Pages 46 to 49)

- assume some, because the pile got larger.
- 2 Q. And your assumption is based on the
- fact, simply, that you saw the pile where you used tostore or in your responsibilities you stored pyranol
- 5 at Fletcher's continue to grow?
- 6 A. Right.
- 7 Q. So, you're assuming any other barrels
- 8 in that area contained pyranol; is that fair to say?
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. We talked about the blending. Do you
- 11 know whether Fletcher's's Milford Paint Works used
- 12 the pyranol received from General Electric or anyone
- 13 else in the form in which it was received, that is to
- 14 say, without blending in its materials?
- 15 A. To begin with they did.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. But then they found out it had the
- 18 specks in it, they wanted to get rid of it, the
- 19 specks.
- Q. But before that time they had been
- 21 using it as is?
- 22 A. Yeah.
- Q. Did you ever discuss the blending

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- process you've described today with anyone at General
- 2 Electric?
- 3 A. I didn't. I don't know whether anyone
- 4 else did.
- 5 Q. You have no reason to believe that
- 6 anyone else did; is that fair to say?
- 7 A. No, I have no reason to believe that
- 8 they didn't or did.
- 9 Q. You just don't know?
- 10 A. Right.
- Q. Okay. I think I'm done for now until
- 12 Ms. Rowley starts asking more questions.
- MS. FISKE: We'll take a few minutes,
- 14 please.
- 15 (Recess taken from 11:00 to 11:10 a.m.)
- 16 EXAMINATION
- 17 BY MS. ROWLEY:
- Q. I have a few follow-up questions after
- 19 Mr. Cowan asked you his questions. You talked about
- 20 the fact that you were blending and filtering the
- 21 pyranol because Webtex requested it. Do you know
- 22 whether Webtex would have purchased the pyranol if
- 23 you didn't blend it?

1 A. Probably not.

Q. And what about if you didn't filter it

3 to get rid of the black specks?

4 A. If we hadn't taken the black specks out

5 of it, they couldn't use it, because it leaves little

6 specks in whatever they were making with it.

7 Q. Were you or Clyde Bishop or anyone else

8 at Fletcher's testing the drums that came in for the

9 specific gravity of the pyranol before Webtex made

10 that request?

11

12

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- A. Did we do what?
  - Q. I'll start over. You had testified
- 13 earlier that you started blending the pyranol --
  - A. Yeah.
- Q. -- about a year or so after you started
- 16 working there.
- 17 A. Yeah.
  - Q. In that year before you started
- 19 blending the pyranol, were you testing drums for
- 20 specific gravity?
  - A. Yeah. Well, Clyde Bishop was then.
- Q. Okay. Why was Mr. Bishop testing for
- 23 specific gravity, if there wasn't any need to blend

Page 53

Page 52

1 it?

- 2 A. Well, they were checking also to see
- 3 how much was in the drums. Sometimes they would fill
- 4 a drum right to the very top, and you can get 58, 59
- 5 gallons in a 55-gallon drum, because you have to --
- 6 you should leave a little dead air space.
- 7 Q. And other times, then, were drums not
- 8 full?

14

- 9 A. Other times the drums wouldn't be full,
- 10 and if they were over full, we'd take some out and
- 11 put it into a different drum.
- Q. Why did you test for the specific
- 13 gravity, though?
  - A. Because we were asked to. Because my
- 15 boss told me to.
- Q. Okay. But you could have just seen,
  - 7 you know, whether a drum was full or over full or not
- 18 full just by opening it up and looking into it?
- 19 A. Right. They wanted specific gravities
- 20 in them.
- Q. And this was even before you were
- 22 blending the material your boss was interested in the
- 23 specific gravity?

14 (Pages 50 to 53)

- 1 Yeah, yeah, they wanted it, because it
- 2 helped them to make their product, made it easier for 3 them.
- 4 For who? Who do you mean by "them"? Q.
- 5 Webtex. A.
- 6 So, Webtex was interested in knowing Q.
- what the specific gravity was --7
- 8 Yeah. A.
- 9 -- when they purchased it? Q.
- 10 A. It was easier for them if we blended it
- for them. 11
- 12 O. Okay. But even before you started
- 13 blending it, they wanted to know what the specific
- gravity was? 14
- 15 A. Right.
- 16 Q. I understand. Could I ask you to look,
- again, at the Declaration, Exhibit 1? 17
- 18 A. Okay.
- 19 Q. And look specifically at paragraph 9,
- which says, "Either Clyde Bishop, Earl Wesson or I 20
- tested the specific gravity of the contents of every
- drum of chlorinated biphenyls at Fletcher Milford
- Paint Works..." It also says that "... the quality
  - Page 55

  - of the chlorinated biphenyls picked up at GE was
  - generally the same and did not get worse throughout
  - 3 my time at Fletcher's Milford Paint Works."
    - Mm-hmm. A.
- Q. If Webtex was buying the pyranol as is 5
- before you started the blending and filtering and
- 7 then later they wouldn't take it unless you had
- blended or filtered it --8
- 9 A. Right.

4

11

- -- did the quality somehow get worse? 10 Q.
  - MR. COWAN: Objection.
- THE WITNESS: Well, one of the things 12
- in manufacturing, if you can supply your customer
- with a product that is the same in each and every
- drum, okay, it saves them a lot of work and a lot of
- time, and time is money in manufacturing. So, we 16
- 17 decided to blend it all together and have it all one
- viscosity. 18
- CONTINUING EXAMINATION BY MS. ROWLEY: 19
- When did Webtex start complaining about 20
- 21 the black specks?
- 22 MR. COWAN: Objection. I'm not sure
- there's any foundation of a complaint.

- - 1 THE WITNESS: I can't remember now
  - 2 exactly when they did, but they had taken two or
  - 3 three loads, I think, and then they decided they had
  - 4 the black specks in it and they wanted to get rid of
  - 5 them, so we did.
  - CONTINUING EXAMINATION BY MS. ROWLEY: 6
  - 7 I'd like to look at paragraph 6 of your
  - Declaration, which says, "I have no recollection that 8
  - the drums picked up from GE were in poor condition." 9
  - I think Mr. Cowan also asked you about this 10
  - 11 paragraph. Now, you stated that this is true, in
  - 12 general, correct?
  - 13 A. Mm-hmm.
  - 14 O. But earlier you also talked about the
  - 15 fact that some of drums that were arriving from GE at
  - 16 Fletcher's were leaking.
  - 17 Yeah. Well, what happens is it may not
  - 18 be leaking at all in New York, okay, and it's 30
  - degrees, and you come back down to Milford and it 19
  - 20 might be 60 degrees, and the expansion of the product
  - would force it out through the gaskets. 21
  - 22 Q. And sometimes there were missing
  - 23 gaskets?

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Page 57

Page 56

- 1 A. Pardon?
- 2 Q. And sometimes there would be missing
- 3 gaskets, correct?
  - MR. COWAN: Objection.
  - THE WITNESS: Right.
- CONTINUING EXAMINATION BY MS. ROWLEY 6
- 7 And, in addition, you also testified
- that once in a while there was a drum that was in
- 9 poor condition and you had to --
- 10 Yeah. A.
  - Q. -- pour the contents into a new drum.
- 12 A.
- So, this paragraph 6, would it be fair 13 Q.
  - to say that you meant in general?
- 14
- 15 A. Right.
- 16 Q. Okay. I'd like to look, again, at
- 17 paragraph 8. You've stated that either Mr. Fletcher
- could use the chlorinated biphenyls or they were sold 18
- 19 to Webtex; however, you've also said that when you
- 20 stopped working at Mr. Fletcher's, there were about
- 21 2,000 drums left on the property and about maybe half
- 22 of those contained pyranol; is that right?
- 23 Mmm-hmm. A.

15 (Pages 54 to 57)

- Q. So, when you left Fletcher's, when you stopped working for Mr. Fletcher, there were a good number of drums of pyranol that had not been used?
- 4 A. Oh, yeah.
- Q. Okay. And you also talked about howyou noticed that this pile of drums was still there
- 7 several weeks after you stopped working for Mr.
- 8 Fletcher; in fact, that maybe the pile of drums was 9 increasing?
- 10 A. Yeah. I think they increased quite a 11 bit, yeah.
- O. Ouite a bit? Can you estimate?
- A. No. It's pretty hard to -- that piece
- 14 of land there is probably a couple of hundred feet
- 15 long and, oh, probably 30 or 40 feet wide. So, you
- 16 know, it's pretty hard to -- I don't know whether
- 17 they had them -- you know, you'd stack them up, go
- 18 three high or four high or five high, or maybe the
- 19 back side down to almost nothing there, you know.
- 20 It's hard to say.
- Q. There was a substantial-enough increase
- 22 that you noticed it just while you were driving by,
- 23 correct?

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- 1 MR. COWAN: Objection.
- 2 THE REPORTER: Was that a yes?
- 3 THE WITNESS: No.
- 4 CONTINUING EXAMINATION BY MS. ROWLEY:
- 5 Q. Do you want me to repeat the question?
- 6 You did notice an increase in the number of barrels
- 7 or drums?

8

- A. On the land, right.
- 9 Q. On the land, okay. Now, Mr. Cowan had
- 10 asked you about whether you knew for sure that the
- 11 contents of those drums that were stored at
- 12 Fletcher's was pyranol. I just want to ask you, was
- 13 it the practice at Fletcher's to stack drums
- 14 containing different contents in the same pile? For
- 15 instance, did you store all the drums of pyranol
- 16 together?
- MR. COWAN: You mean, while he was at
- 18 Fletcher's?
- 19 CONTINUING EXAMINATION BY MS. ROWLEY:
- Q. While you were at Fletcher's.
- A. We used to put one thing in each pile.
- 22 If we had, let's say, linseed oil or kettled linseed
- 23 oil, if you had 25 drums of that, you would put the

Page 60

- 1 25 drums in a row. If you had 25 drums of something
- 2 else, then you'd put that in a different row, but you
- 3 never mixed them together.
- 4 Q. Okay.
  - A. Otherwise, how would you know what you
- 6 had?

5

13

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21

- 7 Q. Makes sense. You said that you last
- 8 saw the piles of drums several weeks after you
- 9 stopped working for Mr. Fletcher's. In the weeks and
- 10 months and years after you stopped working for Mr.
- 11 Fletcher's, did you ever have occasion to drive by
- 12 the Cottage Street or Mill Street property?
  - A. Oh, yeah.
- 14 Q. Did you notice whether the drums were
- 15 still there?
- 16 A. No, I don't believe they were.
- Q. Is it safe to say that several weeks
  - after you stopped working for him they were there?
- 19 A. Yeah.
- Q. What about months?
  - A. No, it was longer than that before they
- 22 left. I remember going over and seeing Johnny. John
- 23 Racicot and I are pretty good friends, and I can't

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- 1 really remember how long it was before the pile went
- 2 down.
- 3 CONTINUING EXAMINATION BY MS. ROWLEY
- 4 Q. Did Mr. Racicot live near the Cottage
- 5 or Mill Street property?
- 6 A. Pardon?
- 7 O. Did Mr. Racicot live near the Mill
- 8 Street property that was owned by Fletcher's?
- 9 A. Yeah, about twice the length of this
- 10 room away from it, his wife and kids.
  - MS. ROWLEY: For the record, this room
- 12 is 10 by --

11

14

17

- 13 MR. ISRAEL: About 20 feet.
  - MS. ROWLEY: -- about 20 feet.
- 15 THE WITNESS: The width of the road,
- 16 34, 35 feet. It's two rods wide.
  - MR. COWAN: I'll take your word for it.
- 18 CONTINUING EXAMINATION BY MS. ROWLEY
- 19 Q. When drums were stored at Mr.
- 20 Fletcher's, they were stored sometimes on their side;
- 21 is that correct?
- A. They decided to do that when they put
- 23 them over to the Cottage Street, yeah, but over the

- 1 other place, when I was stacking them, they were 2 stored on end.
- Q. Now, in either position, whether they
  were stored standing up or stored on their side,
  would the weather conditions, you know, increases in
  temperature or decreases, cause the drums to leak?
- A. Well, I didn't like the idea of laying
  them on their side, because you had to insert the
  barrels so they can't roll, you know, and, God,
  there's little kids living in that neighborhood, you
  know, and I was scared to death one of them's going
  to get hurt, because they love to play on stuff like
  that, you know.
- Q. So, you noticed there were children playing among these drums?
- 16 A. Well, around there, yeah. In the 17 neighborhood, let's put it that way.
- Q. Okay. Did they play on Mr. Fletcher's property?
- A. I don't know whether they did or not, but there's always that chance, you know?
- Q. The weather conditions; did they cause the drums to leak while they were being stored?

- 1 that, "There were not any chlorinated biphenyls at
- 2 Fletcher's Milford Paint Works, including those
- 3 picked up at GE, that Fletcher's Milford Paint Works
- 4 couldn't either sell to Webtex or use." And, again,
- 5 that's true, to the best of your knowledge; is that
- 6 correct, sir?

7

- A. I couldn't hear you.
- 8 Q. I'm sorry. Is that a true statement, 9 paragraph 8?
- 10 A. Yeah, yeah, I think so.
- Q. So, was it your understanding that the drums containing pyranol, or that you understand contained pyranol, after you left, that you've
- 13 contained pyranol, after you left, that you've
- 14 testified today, do you have an understanding that15 they were also sold to Webtex or used?
- 16 A. I don't know if they were or not.
- Q. Do you have any reason to believe they
- 18 were not sold to Webtex or used by Fletcher's?
- 19 A. No, I don't. Personally, I don't know
- of anything firsthand on that. I've heard rumors.
   Q. When you left Fletcher's, do you know
- 22 who took over your job responsibility, that is to
- 23 say, who was responsible for unloading materials off

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Page 65

Page 64

- 1 A. Sometimes, yeah.
- 2 Q. Were you able to fix the leaks on the
- 3 drums while they were --
- 4 A. Most of them, yes.
- 5 Q. And some of them you were not?
- 6 A. I don't know. I haven't been there in
- 7 all that time.
- 8 Q. While you were working there.
- 9 A. Well, while I was working there I tried
- 10 to keep them tight all the time, but one of the
- 11 things we used to do was go around and check the
- 12 barrels because some of the resins and that are quite
- 13 expensive, you know.
  - MS. ROWLEY: That's all I have.
- 15 EXAMINATION
- 16 BY MR. COWAN:
- Q. Mr. Whitney, I have just a couple of
- 18 more. I'm going to try to sit here and, hopefully,
- 19 you can hear me and the stenographer will be able to
- 20 hear us both.

14

- 21 Again, looking at Exhibit 1, which is
- 22 your Declaration, paragraph 8, which now we've read a
- couple of times, but it discusses where you said

- 1 of trucks? Do you know?
  - A. No, I don't know.
- 3 Q. Do you know who had the responsibility
- 4 for stacking or storing drums that may have come in
- 5 after the time that you left the company?
- 6 A. No. I don't know who was responsible
- 7 for all that.

2

11

- 8 Q. So, you wouldn't know one way or the
- 9 other whether or not they followed the protocol and
- 10 procedure you just described, which is to say --
  - A. No.
- Q. -- only certain materials are stored in
- 13 certain places and never mixed up. You don't know
- 14 whether or not they followed that procedure?
- 15 A. No
- Q. And if they didn't follow that
- 17 procedure, is it fair to say that it's possible that
- 18 among the drums that you believe may have contained
- 19 pyranol after you left there could have been drums
- 20 containing other material?
- 21 A. Yeah. Possibly could have been
- 22 solvents that they used to rinse down the machines
- 23 with, and that sometimes would make them -- the

	Page 66		Page 68
1	viscosity would go down on them.	1	and signing?
2	Q. We've talked a lot today about barrels	2	MS. ROWLEY: I guess, yes.
3	containing chlorinated biphenyls or pyranol, right?	3	(Deposition of RICHARD A. WHITNEY
4	A. Yes.	4	concluded at 11:30 a.m.)
5	Q. When you've been referring to that, Mr.	5	concluded at 11.50 a.m.)
6	Whitney I apologize for this unartful question	6	
7	but have you been referring to just material received	7	
8	from General Electric or material received from	8	
9	Sprague Electric or, possibly, others?	9	
10	A. From all of them. They were all	10	
11	basically the same. A leak is a leak. It doesn't	11	
12	make any difference whether it's from a red drum or a	12	
13	brown drum or a blue drum, you know?	13	
14	Q. And Ms. Rowley just asked you a	14	
15	question about barrels being stored on their side or	15	
		16	
16	recollection today whether barrels received from		
17	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	17	
18	Sprague Electric, for example, as compared to General	18	
19	Electric, may have been leaking?	19	
20	A. Not any worse or not any better, I	20	
21	would think.	21	
22	Q. And you don't have the ability to tell	22	
23	us today, or at all, really, whether a particular	23	
	Page 67		Page 69
1	barrel that may have been received from General	1	CERTIFICATE OF WITNESS
2	Electric, for example, may have leaked or spilled?	2	I, RICHARD A. WHITNEY, do hereby swear/affirm
3	A. No.	3	that I have read the foregoing transcript of my
4	Q. I'm sorry. You have to say that out	4	testimony, and further certify that it is a true and
5	loud? What was your answer?	5	accurate record of my testimony (with the exception
6	A. No. There's no way of really telling.	6	of the corrections listed below):
7	MR. COWAN: Unless Ms. Rowley asks	7	Page Line Correction
8	another wave of questions, I don't have any more	8	
9	questions, Mr. Whitney.	9	
10	MS. ROWLEY: One follow-up question.	10	
11		11	
12	BY MS. ROWLEY:	12	
13	Q. While you were working at Fletcher's,	13	
14	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	14	
15		15	
16		16	
17	•	17	
1		18	RICHARD A. WHITNEY
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
			•
		3	
1			Notary Public/Justice of the Peace
1	THE REPORTER: Is the witness reading	23	My Commission Expires:
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. No. Q. I'm sorry. You have to say that out loud? What was your answer? A. No. There's no way of really telling. MR. COWAN: Unless Ms. Rowley asks another wave of questions, I don't have any more questions, Mr. Whitney. MS. ROWLEY: One follow-up question. EXAMINATION BY MS. ROWLEY: Q. While you were working at Fletcher's, was it per Mr. Fletcher's's instructions that you would keep store different materials in different piles or different places? A. No. No, it wasn't from his instructions. It was just common-sense-type of I mean, if you're going to be making paint, say, next week, you don't bury the barrels that you're going to use. MS. ROWLEY: I think that's it.	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	that I have read the foregoing transcript of my testimony, and further certify that it is a true and accurate record of my testimony (with the exception of the corrections listed below):  Page Line Correction  RICHARD A. WHITNEY  Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of, 2007.  Notary Public/Justice of the Peace

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1	CERTIFICATE	
2	I, Brenda K. Hancock a Registered	
3	Professional Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter	
4	and Notary Public of the State of New Hampshire, do	do
5	hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and	40
6	accurate transcript of my stenographic notes of the	
7	deposition of RICHARD A. WHITNEY who was first duly	ant duly
8	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ist duly
9	sworn, taken at the place and on the date hereinbefore set forth.	
10	I further certify that I am neither	
11	attorney nor counsel for, nor related to or employed	l
12	by any of the parties to the action in which this	
13	deposition was taken, and further that I am not a	
14	relative or employee of any attorney or counsel	
15	employed in this case, nor am I financially	
16	interested in this action.	
17	THE FOREGOING CERTIFICATION OF THIS	
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23	N.H. Certified Court Reporter	
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